



PROGRAM ACTIVITY REPORT (PAR)

AVIAN HEALTH PROJECT UPDATE

In 2013, the NWDP collected 3,817 samples from more than 90 species of wild birds across the United States. These samples were tested for various avian pathogens including avian paramyxovirus serotype 1 (APMV-1), avian influenza (AIV), and several arboviruses. Paired swab and serum samples were collected for APMV-1 testing; although antibody prevalence was relatively high (19.6%), very few birds (0.6%) were virus positive. In addition to testing for APMV-1, swab samples were also tested for AIV yielding an apparent prevalence of 2.7%. Of these 11.6% were H5 positive and none were H7 positive. Virus isolation is pending for the matrix positives.

In addition to testing the serum for APMV-1, a subset of samples has been submitted to the Institute for Human Infections and Immunity and Department of Pathology, University of Texas

Medical Branch, for eastern equine encephalitis virus (EEEV), St. Louis encephalitis virus (SLEV), West Nile virus (WNV), and Turlock virus (TURV) testing. These arboviruses were selected because of their importance to human or animal health. Samples collected in



counties with human, equine or mosquito positives for any of the arboviruses during the same time frame were given priority for testing. Testing is currently underway for these samples.

In 2014, the avian health project will continue, but has been modified slightly from 2013. Since so

few swab samples tested APMV-1 virus-positive in 2013, virus testing will be discontinued, but serum samples will continue to be tested to elucidate areas of exposure. In addition, serum samples will be tested for EEEV, SLEV, WNV, and TURV. Swab samples will be used to monitor AIV in wild birds and to learn more about the various subtypes currently circulating in wild birds.

Finally, a pilot study will be initiated to test wild bird samples for select bacterial

agents of concern including salmonella. Results from this study will be used to inform future surveillance efforts.

For additional information please contact Kerri Pedersen,

Kerri.Pedersen@aphis.usda.gov

The original artwork on this page was created by the National Wildlife Disease Program's Erika Kampe and Sarah Goff



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